

# The American Observer

*A free, virtuous, and enlightened people must know well the great principles and causes on which their happiness depends. — James Monroe*

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## THE GREAT ISSUE

BY WALTER E. MYER

The American Republic has passed through a number of crises in the course of its history. It has known days that were dangerous as well as years of peace and progress. It is doubtful, however, whether the American people have ever stood face to face with a more dangerous crisis than the one which now confronts them.

The world is in the midst of war, revolution, chaos. The fires are spreading to our own shores. We ourselves are in a most peculiar position, a position not wholly unlike that in which the young republic found itself during the Napoleonic period. Now, as then, America is in a state of quasi war. We stand near the precipice of "all-out" war, but we are not over the line. We are not formally at war with Germany and her allies.

As to whether we should go further and participate to the extent of our power in the effort to defeat Germany, opinion is divided. There are those who think that a German victory would place us in deadly peril and that our safety lies in the defeat of the Nazis. Others are impressed by the dangers immediate war would entail. They think it will be possible for the United States to live in peace and security even though the Germans win.

It is important in this crisis that national unity be achieved. If democracy is to endure, it cannot be achieved by the methods employed in the dictatorships; that is, through the suppression of one faction by the other. We must make up our minds in America through honest, candid, tolerant, thoughtful consideration of facts and issues.

When the nation, acting through its chosen representatives, that is, the President and the Congress, has decided upon a course of action, the duty of all Americans is clear. Each one of us, regardless of our opinions, must do everything we possibly can to make the government's policy successful. At the present time it is the duty of everyone to submerge selfish interests and to work untiringly for the success of the defense program. This nation, through its representatives, has decided to produce war materials to the limit and to supply them to the opponents of Germany. Each individual American must willingly and cheerfully make such sacrifices as may be necessary in order to do his part toward the furtherance of that program. To do less than that is to expose the nation to weakness in the presence of grave danger. It is the very essence of democracy that when a majority speaks through the constituted agencies of government, everyone will fall into line for the program which has been adopted. Any other course would lead to the destruction of democracy.

But certain questions are still undecided. Foremost of these is the

(Concluded on page 2)



THE UNITED STATES NAVY GUARDS THE SEAS

OFFICIAL U. S. NAVY PHOTO

## America's Stake in the War

American People Are Divided on This Momentous Issue. Arguments of Those Who Favor Decisive Action to Defeat Axis Are Compared with Those of Groups Who Oppose Further Participation

*The following analysis of the arguments pro and con on the question of whether the United States should enter more actively into the effort to defeat the Axis powers should be read in connection with the editorial which appears on this page.*

The points which are set forth should not in any case be regarded as expressions of the opinions of THE AMERICAN OBSERVER.

The arguments which appear in the article are the ones which in the opinion of the editors of this paper most reasonably and constructively support the opposing sides of the controversy.

We shall hear first from those who think that America should use every resource at its command to assist in the defeat of the Nazis:

### War Inevitable

The people of the United States do not have it in their power to decide whether or not they will be embroiled in war. That decision was made by Hitler when he started a war of world-wide conquest; a war to make Germany dominant. It is our privilege merely to decide whether to face Hitler now when we would have allies or later when we would fight alone against the world. Hitler will seek to overwhelm us if it ever seems to him to be in his interest to do so. We cannot avoid this attack by being friendly to him; for whenever he thinks war is to his advantage, he attacks an ally as quickly as a country which has opposed him. An illustration is his attack upon Russia. If, then, we are ever attacked by Hitler, it will not be because we have shown our hostility to him in the present war. It will be because he thinks it is to his interest to overthrow us.

It is certain that if he conquers England and Russia and becomes supreme in Europe, he will sooner or later, and probably sooner, find it

to his convenience to make war on us. America will then be his one great rival; the one great nation which is not under his influence. He hates our system of government, and if we alone stand out as a great, strong democracy, we will be a challenge to him. The peoples whom he has conquered will look to America for leadership. This nation will be their rallying point. He will need, therefore, to defeat or humiliate us in order to strengthen his own position.

The rivalry will begin as soon as he wins in Europe and it will be intense. If he invades and conquers England, unquestionably a wave of fear will sweep over the United States—a wave of fear and defiance. We will continue to arm ever more feverishly. Hitler will arm just as feverishly in reply. There will be no question then of universal military service in this country. Every man who can shoulder a gun will be under arms, for we will realize that all the rest of the world is against us. It is inconceivable that this sort of thing could go on very long; this arming of two great nations against each other; each fearing and hating the other, without actual strife.

As this conflict develops, time will not be on our side. Germany will be allied with Japan, and Europe, Asia, and Africa will be under his control. He will have the use of the resources of three continents. These resources are so great that he can outbuild us in ships, airplanes, and all kinds of equipment.

Even though the whole world were against us, we might fight the enemies away from our own shores. There is a question about that, but it is possible. There would, however, be no possible chance for us to defeat our enemies in that case. The best we could do would be to protect continental United States. In the end we would either be defeated or else

the war would drag on year after year. Hitler would not mind that, for he thrives on war. But constant war would be utterly destructive of democracy in America and the American way of life.

### War Not Necessary

Here is the argument advanced by those who oppose increased American intervention in the war:

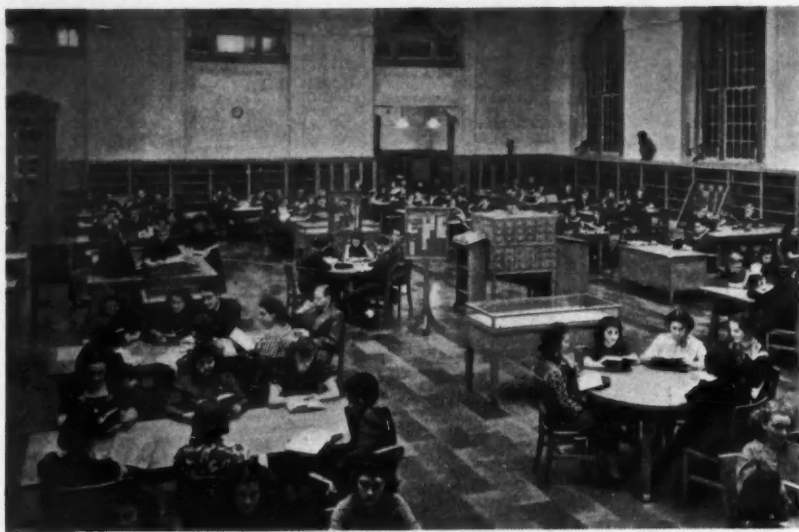
War between the United States and Germany is not inevitable, even if the Germans should win the war in Europe. They may not be able to conquer England even if we do not take part in the war. But suppose they should; it does not follow that America would be attacked. Hitler would then have achieved a mighty conquest. He would have all Europe at his feet, probably all of Africa, and a part of Asia. But he would have plenty of troubles on his hands. He would be obliged to consolidate his ground. Revolution in parts of his far-flung empire would always be a possibility. His first job would be to establish his "New Order" in the Eastern Hemisphere and to put it on a stable basis. That would require all his energies. It would be suicidal for him to pick a fight with the Western Hemisphere under such conditions.

His task would be to rebuild Europe; to repair the destruction wrought by the war; to feed hungry people in order to quiet their unrest and get them into a situation so that they could produce goods and establish his domain on a prosperous basis. He would need food from America and materials with which to carry on the work of reconstruction.

Hitler would by that time have established the foundations of a great empire which might last for years or centuries. He would be satisfied to possess the Eastern Hemisphere and to let the Western Hemisphere

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BOARD OF EDUCATION, NEW YORK CITY

It is the duty of the good citizens to become well informed in order that they may be able to discuss critical problems thoughtfully and calmly.

## Great Issue Confronts U.S.

(Concluded from page 1)

question of whether we shall go further in the direction of total war with the Axis powers. So long as war has not been declared, that question is still debatable.

It is our duty to debate this question calmly and fairly. All selfish interests should be swept aside. And there are selfish and unpatriotic interests on both sides of the issue.

Among those who favor American intervention in the war, there are some who, undoubtedly, are more interested in England than in the United States. There are others who are easily taken in by propaganda efforts of the English.

On the other hand, among those who oppose American intervention, are some who are Nazis at heart, and who are definitely pro-German. There are some who think that they would profit by German victory. There are others who dislike England and who cannot properly consider American interests because they are so much afraid of doing something that would help the British.

Such interests as these should be swept aside. Their arguments should not be considered by thoughtful Americans. There is, however, a division of opinion among unselfish, patriotic American citizens. It is that division of opinion which we shall consider this week.

So important is this issue of American foreign policy that we are for the week setting aside our usual procedure and are carrying one main article instead of two. In this lengthened article, we weigh against each other such arguments on both sides of this great issue as seem to us to be honest, unselfish, and reasonable. Even with the added space which we are giving the issue we cannot deal with it with any completeness in one number of this paper. We can, however, show where the vital questions of dispute lie. We can (and this is important) indicate the method by which the discussion of the question can be helpfully carried on.

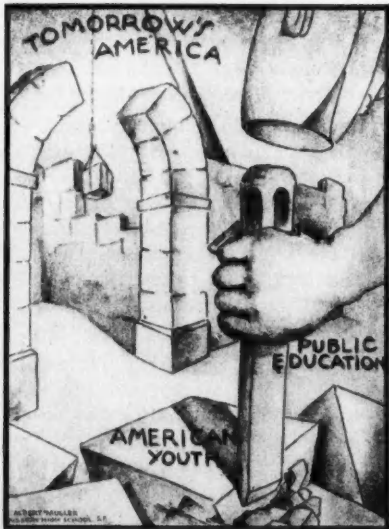
The first thing to say about the method of discussion is that motives should not be questioned. When anyone speaks on this issue, his argument should be considered on its merits. If someone advances an argument for full participation in the war by America, do not call him a "warmonger." Study his argument to see whether it is valid and whether the facts which he brings forward are

probably true. If, on the other hand, someone speaks against intervention, it does no good to call him "pro-Nazi." Consider his argument on its merits.

The first step in deciding how far we should go in helping defeat Germany is to determine so far as we can what the probable consequences to the United States will be if we participate in the war and what the probable consequences to the United States will be if we do not. Try to get a picture of what German victory would mean to the United States. Would it be very disastrous or would it not? Then get a picture of what participation in the war would mean to the United States. What effect would war have upon this country? Would these consequences probably be worse or less dangerous than the situation we would be in if there were a German victory?

We may consider then what the consequences of a German defeat would be. Would there then be a greater degree of peace and stability in the world or would there be chaos and disorder?

When a proposal for any course of action is made, the first thing to do is to determine what would be the consequences of taking that action and what would be the consequences of not taking it. Then compare these probable consequences and determine which set of consequences, all things considered, would best serve the interests of the United States and the world.



(From a drawing by Albert Muller, Mission High School, San Francisco.)

## We have read - -

NOWHERE in the world is prejudice against race and nationality so out of place as in the United States. Nothing is so un-American, for America is itself a fusion of nationalities. David Cushman Coyle emphasizes that point in his book *America* (Washington, D.C.: National Home Library Foundation, \$.25):

Over here we are all immigrants together. Even the American Indians came over from Siberia, 10 or 20 thousand years ago. There is no race or creed or culture that has a monopoly of Americanism—except the human race, the creed of friendship and goodwill, and the culture of free speech and free opportunity.

In America there is nothing astonishing in the fact that our great defense program is in charge of "Bill" Knudsen and Sidney Hillman, both of them born in Europe, both of them natives of conquered countries. They have special reason to appreciate what it really means to be an American. . . . If our country is to be united and strong, every one of us has his own job to do in cementing all these different kinds of people together into a solid nation.

Listen to the names of Americans. These are the names of the Yankees who beat the Red Sox in a game on April 24, 1941: Rizzuto, Rolfe, Henrich, Rosar, Selkirk, DiMaggio, Keller, Gordon, Dickey, Priddy, Russo.

These are names of radio electricians from one page of the United States Navy Register: Swint, Booth, Schmidt, Rothenberg, Ripley, Recksiek, Wiegand, Adams, Berberich, Finnegan, Dufresne, Almour, Desrosiers.

These are the names of some of the American fliers in the Eagle Squadron of the R.A.F. fighting in the Battle of Britain: Allen, Bono, Kolondorski, Whitehead, McGinnis, Olson, Moore, Satterlee, Provenzano, Bateman, Luczkow, LaGuardia, Peterson, Mauriello, and Mamedoff.

We Americans are natives of all the world, gathered here under one flag in the name of liberty.



THE following picture of Hermann Goering, Number Two Nazi, is from *You Can't Do Business with Hitler*, by Douglas Miller (Boston: Little, Brown and Company, \$1.50):

Goering has built his home at Karinhall to the north of Berlin in a wooded area, miles away from the highroad. All incoming cars must pass through two covered approaches where sensitive photoelectric cells register the movement of vehicles, so that bells ring, whistles blow, and the soldiers are alerted in the guardhouse. A few moments later such vehicles are surrounded on the road by squads of motorcycle police who dash out from the woods on both sides, carefully survey the car and its occupants, and make the necessary inspections. I never could decide whether this was considered necessary or whether it was simply practice training for the German military police. A state visitor to Goering's home is welcomed by pet lion cubs and a squad of trumpeters blaring an operatic salute from Wagner.

When Goering entertained the delegates to the International Chamber of Commerce in 1937, he used the Kaiser's palace for the occasion. He dispensed with electric lights and illuminated the rooms, stairways, and courtyards by double lines of footmen dressed in red livery and carrying torches. Only the Emperor Nero would have felt thoroughly at home on such an occasion.

AMERICAN radio listeners are inclined to take for granted the news broadcasts which they hear daily from foreign capitals in all parts of the world. Little do they realize the expense, time, and effort involved in arranging these programs. The radio companies and the commentators they send abroad make a supreme and costly attempt to bring the latest and most significant news developments to their listeners.

William L. Shirer, former Berlin correspondent of the Columbia Broadcasting System, and author of the current best seller *Berlin Diary*, gives an interesting account in his book of the limits to which he went in search of last-minute news. He tells of one item of expense involved in a two-day quest of information during the Russian-Finnish war:

My telephone bill yesterday and today, including numerous urgent calls to Helsinki, Stockholm, Berlin, Amsterdam, London, and New York has run over a thousand dollars and my cable and telegraph bill must come to almost half that. But Paul White and Klauber (officials of CBS) say: "Get the broadcasts."

SOMERSET MAUGHAM has written a very interesting book called *Strictly Personal* (Garden City, New York: Doubleday, Doran and Company, \$2.50), which tells of his observations and experiences in France from a period just before the outbreak of the war until after the fall of France.

One gets a picture in this book of the unreadiness of France for war; of the selfishness and lack of patriotism in high places and low. One sees evidence of profiteering, of petty politics, inefficiency, and a lack of appreciation of what was about to happen to the country. One story which Mr. Maugham relates indicates how powerful was the German spy system—how it reached to those who were closest to the President of the Republic:

The President, Monsieur Lebrun, arranged to visit Strasbourg, and his projected journey was kept secret. It was known only to the essential persons on his staff, and even the police who were to escort him to the station were informed only at the last moment. He arrived and was taken to the banks of the Rhine. As he came in sight of the Germans on the other side they hoisted a huge placard on which could be read in immense letters, "Welcome to President Lebrun," and a military band blared out the "Marseillaise."

IN *Pattern of Conquest* (Garden City, New York: Doubleday, Doran and Company, \$2.50) Joseph C. Harsch, Berlin correspondent of the *Christian Science Monitor*, tells of the bad feeling and lack of confidence between Germany and her allies. At every opportunity they do not hesitate to double-cross each other. He says:

London was not a jot more pleased over Italy's defeat at the hands of the Greeks than Berlin. The German press managed to keep up appearances. But the daily life of an Italian in Berlin during those December and January days was as humiliating as it was in any other capital of the world. The same jokes about Italian military prowess circulated there as anywhere else. I heard German newspapermen and German stenographers tell such jokes with deliberate malice in the hearing of Italians. I remember particularly two girls at the Propaganda Ministry discuss Italian tanks in the presence of one previously rather boastful Italian.

"I hear they have three gears for reverse and one for going forward," one of the two remarked.

"Why do they want one for going forward?" the other asked.

"Oh, that's in case they are attacked from the rear."





# Seeing South America... III

THE republic of Colombia is about twice the size of the state of Texas. Here is another comparison: Draw a line from New York City to Chicago. Then extend it southward to the Gulf of Mexico. Colombia, if transplanted to the United States, would just about cover the section of our country which is enclosed within that line.

The western part of Colombia is cut through by three ranges of the Andes Mountains. For most of their length, these mountains are about as high as the Rockies of Colorado. Between the ranges are valleys and tablelands which support the greater part of the nation's population.

There are, of course, important cities on the Caribbean coast. Barranquilla is the largest of these, with a population of 150,000 and Cartagena has a population of a little less than 100,000. The southeastern half of Colombia slopes downward from the mountains to the torrid lowlands,

still largely unexplored, which are inhabited chiefly by Indians.

It is hard to get from one part of Colombia to the other. There are few good roads and the railway lines are mere fragments, being welded into no national system.



Walter E. Myer

From Barranquilla, Colombia's chief seaport, to Bogotá, the capital, one must travel four days by river steamer through marshy jungles and mountain passes. Then there is a short railway ride and finally the traveler reaches the capital by automobile over a one-way mountain road. This last lap of the trip is made in six or seven hours. There is a daily plane service, too, from the capital to the seaport. The trip by air can be made in two and one-half hours.

It takes a day and a half to go from Cali by railway and car to Bogotá, but we made the trip by air over the mountains in an hour and a half. These planes are usually crowded, but Joan, my niece, and I were the only occupants in the 21-passenger plane on our return trip from Bogotá to Cali.

Somewhat less than a third of the people of Colombia are of pure white

stock. Nearly a tenth are Negroes and about the same number are Indians. The rest of the population, about half the total number, are of mixed race. The Negroes live chiefly in the port cities and on the farms of the central valleys. There are a few Indians in the upland cities, but most of them are in eastern Colombia.

The people whom one sees on the streets in the interior cities, such as Bogotá and Cali, are nearly all white and of Spanish descent. They look very much like the people whom one sees on the streets of a city in the United States, except that they are of darker complexion.

## Bogotá, the Capital

Bogotá is a city of 330,000 population, set on a high plateau, 8,500 feet above sea level. No large city in the United States can be found with anything like that altitude. The nearest approach to it is Denver, which has an altitude of something more than 5,000 feet. Naturally, it is quite cool in Bogotá, and the people wear winter clothing the year round.

As we approached the center of the city on the drive from the airport, we were impressed by the narrowness of the streets and the congestion of traffic. The people crowded into the middle of the streets, scampering out of the way of streetcars and autos. This was not such a difficult operation, of course, as it would be in an American city, because there are fewer cars.

There are no large stores—comparable to the department stores of American cities—the streets being lined with relatively small shops. In Cali, there are few display windows. One can tell the nature of a store by looking through the open door. The windows are more common in the stores of Bogotá, however, and a surprisingly large number of them are filled with American products.

Articles from the United States include breakfast foods, cosmetics, radios, sewing machines, patent medicines, and tooth pastes. On our first expedition through the shopping section, Joan was in the market for a box of chocolates and tried to find a Colombian brand. We could find no boxed candy, however, except chocolates from the United States. This was the case also in Ecuador and Peru. Schrafft's seemed to have a near monopoly of the chocolates.

At every newsstand in Colombia, Ecuador, and Peru, American magazines were on sale. Among the most popular seemed to be *Time*, *Newsweek*, *Collier's*, *Harper's Bazaar*, *Saturday Evening Post*, and a number of movie magazines. *Reader's Digest* was to be found nearly everywhere, in either the English or the Spanish edition.

Though several of the American magazines were on display at the newsstands, I cannot think that any considerable number were sold, because the cities of Colombia are off the ordinary tourist routes. They are more frequented by Americans than they were before the days of air travel, but we saw fewer Americans in Colombia than elsewhere in South America. A number of American businessmen were always to be seen, however, about the hotels.

## Comfort Lacking

The traveler does not find in the South American hotels the comfort to which he is accustomed in the United States. I particularly enjoy the luxury of the American hotel lobbies and lounges. These are seldom found in South America.

But the large lobbies where one may lounge or loaf, where one may talk to his friends without having a waiter rush up to take his order, are found in only a few places outside the United States. The rooms of the South American hotels are for the most part plainly, though comfortably, furnished. In Bogotá, they were gloomy and cheerless, but that was not true of most of the hotels which we visited.

I spoke last week of the very low wages received by the farm workers. In the cities, higher wages are paid, though the city workers are not able to produce their own food as the farm laborers do to a considerable extent. The skilled workers, such as carpenters, or bricklayers, or ordinary mechanics, get about \$1.50 to \$2.00 a day in Colombia, and this, considering the cost of living, is equivalent to twice that amount in the United States. All the people in the laboring classes are poor, but there seems to be no great amount of unemployment.

It is hard to compare living standards of different countries, but I should say that the farm workers of Colombia live as well as many share-croppers of the United States, but their standards are far lower than that of American farmers even in the moderately prosperous farming districts. The Colombian city workers get along better than American workers of the lowest economic level, but they are far below the better paid of our laboring class. The average of economic well-being is much lower than in the United States.

Educational standards are also lower. Most of the children go to school for a few years, but only a relatively small number from the laboring classes attend high school.



Colombia

FIELDS

## ♦ SMILES ♦

Joe: "He went blind from drinking coffee."

Bill: "Whoever heard of such a thing? How did it happen?"

Joe: "He left his spoon in the cup."

—CLASSMATE

Sign in a restaurant: "We know it's tough to pay 65 cents for a steak, but if you pay 35 cents, it's tougher."

—SELECTED

Customer: "Listen, barber, I'll never make the train at the speed you're shaving me. Suppose you hold the razor still and I'll wiggle my face."

—CLASSMATE

In search of a quiet holiday, a man and his wife went to stay on a farm. They soon found that even the peaceful country has its drawbacks.

"Those roosters woke me up at dawn again this morning," he growled at breakfast.

"Yes," replied his wife, "but you can't blame the birds. Remember that the only morning you ever got up early you crowed about it for a week."

—ANSWERS



"I knitted it for the British, but they sent it back"

GEORGE SMITH IN "THIS WEEK"

"Pop, what's a child prodigy?"

"It's a boy of about your age, son, who doesn't need to ask questions."

—CAPPER'S WEEKLY

"Now," said the hypnotist, "I shall make this man forget everything."

"Hold on," yelled a man in the back row, "he owes me five dollars."

—LABOR

Eskimo Child: "Baw-w-w, I wanna drink."

Eskimo Mother: "Be quiet, it's only six months till morning."

—SELECTED

First Mechanic: "Why do you prefer fabric to leather upholstery?"

Second Mechanic: "Have you ever tried to wipe your hands on leather upholstery?"

—SELECTED



PAN AMERICAN AIRWAYS

Bogotá, capital of Colombia, from the air



# The Week at Home

## Movies and War

Are the movies a one-sided sounding board for interventionist propaganda? Have they been a potent force in pushing America closer to the brink of intervention in Europe's war?

Senators Nye, of North Dakota, and Clark, of Missouri, think so, but they were unable to get the Senate to appoint a special congressional investigating committee to look into the matter. They did succeed, however, in getting Senator Wheeler, of Montana, isolationist leader and chairman of the Senate Interstate



WENDELL WILLKIE reappears on the national scene as champion of the motion picture industry, which is being investigated on charges of war propaganda by a Senate Committee. He is shown (seated) talking to Senator Nye, chairman of the committee.

Commerce Committee, to appoint a special subcommittee for the purpose. This special five-man committee has for some days now been hearing evidence to determine whether there is enough truth in the charges to warrant a full-dress investigation of the movie industry.

The major charges brought out in the hearings have been that the movies are a tight monopoly, dominated by five huge companies, and controlled by a tiny group of men. These men allegedly have flooded the screen with anti-German films, vividly calculated to arouse a maximum of war hysteria and secure American entry into the war. Such pictures as "Escape," "Manhunt," and "I Married a Nazi" have been cited as examples of films which are "infecting 80,000,000 Americans a week with 'the virus of war.'"

Wendell Willkie, who has been retained as counsel for the movies, has provided numerous fireworks at the crowded sessions in the Senate caucus room. He claims that the inquiry is illegal, because it was not authorized by Congress; that it is

prejudiced, because four of the five committee members are non-interventionists, and that it may lead to censorship.

## War Games

Last week was examination week for two of the four field armies of the United States. While the Dodgers and the Cards fought it out for the National League pennant, an equally pitched battle was being waged between the "Red Force" and the "Blue Force" for mastery of an enormous 30,000-square-mile area in western Louisiana.

These were "war games," the nearest thing to a war that has been fought in the United States since the Civil War, involving half a million of the soldiers in America's new Army. There is no live ammunition nor bayonet thrusts; otherwise the maneuvers approximate real war as closely as is humanly possible to make them. No "off-limit areas" are permitted; cornfields, swamps, and barnyards alike face the invasion of tanks, dive bombers, parachutists, and panzer troops. There is no dusk-to-dawn truce as in the past; for 15 days, or until a decision is reached, there will be unrelenting warfare.

The Red Force, under Lieutenant General Ben Lear, is a highly compact, heavily mechanized unit of some six divisions, employing a majority of the 1,000 airplanes to be used in the games. The Blue Force, under Lieutenant General Walter Krueger, is a larger mass army of 11 divisions, with fewer modern weapons. The maneuvers, therefore, will be of great importance in determining the relative value of mechanized troops.

## Air Giants

American Flying Fortresses are beginning to write a new chapter in military aviation. Manned by British airmen, some of them have seen heavy action and have proved unusually effective for high-altitude bombing raids. While over Germany, one was ripped and slashed by anti-aircraft fire, but managed to return to Britain.

Production of Flying Fortresses, known as B-17D's, is gradually stepping up. But even though the giant ships are the speediest, most heavily armed, and highest-flying bombers in the world, they are being superseded by a still later model, the B-17E. Its designers, guided by re-

ports from the fighting fronts, have given it stouter armor and greater firing power. The War Department has ordered nearly \$350,000,000 to be spent for the new ships.

In the still more distant future, air forces may turn to ships which will dwarf the Fortresses. Such a plane is the mammoth B-19, which received its initial testing by the Army in California this last summer. The Navy's counterpart of the B-19 is a flying battleship being constructed by the Glenn Martin Company. It weighs 140,000 pounds and has a wingspread of 200 feet.

## Donald Nelson

National defense's man of action is its head buyer, Donald Nelson. Latest of the stories about his driving energy was told after a shakeup in the defense agencies.



Donald Nelson

One official who had changed jobs left a mountain of work — it would have taken six weeks to clean up at the rate his staff moved. Nelson assembled a handful of trouble shooters, the work was distributed, and it was completely out of the way in less than a week.

This is the man who is the recognized spark plug of the new super-agency of defense, the Supply Priorities and Allocations Board. His first major assignment as executive director is to produce a master survey of the raw materials, machines, and labor which will be needed to produce the required materials for the lend-lease program, our own defenses, and the many civilian necessities.

His emerging duties on the SPAB indicate that Nelson is moving away from the narrower confines of purchasing. His climb is not surprising to those familiar with his career, which began with an excellent record in chemistry at the University of Missouri. A year after graduating, he laid aside his ambition to be a teacher and went to work in the laboratory division of Sears, Roebuck, and Company. The end of the ladder was a vice-presidency in 1930, with supervision over millions of dollars' worth of purchasing.

Since 1934, Nelson has been called in by the government on various oc-



CARMACK IN C. S. MONITOR

CIVILIAN GOODS will be reduced in quantity and variety as the arms program advances.

casions to handle special assignments, and in June 1940 he came to take charge of the biggest purchasing job in history. He is a bulky, round-faced man, 53 years old, and impatient only with delay.

## Ship Launching

Twelve new merchant ships for the Battle of the Atlantic will slide down the ways on September 27. Products of the shipbuilding program directed by the Maritime Commission, six are coming from yards on the Atlantic coast, five on the Pacific, and one on the Gulf coast.

Wherever these vessels go into service, they will relieve some of the strain on the combined shipping needs of the United States and Britain. The 12 are leaving their ship ways in the greatest mass launching since World War I. Three of them mark the first deliveries from the 312 merchant vessels which are under construction in an emergency schedule. The other nine are being completed under the long-range program, inaugurated in 1937, which calls for the building of 500 ships. Of this latter number, 110 have been completed.

## Sacrifice Ahead

Civilian products have been taking a back seat behind defense needs for some time, and some of them are being pushed out of the car altogether. In general, everything made of metal is in the danger zone, and the next six months will probably reveal how many items have fallen by the way until normal times return.

Even those which hang on will be considerably changed. Bicycles, as we reported earlier, will lose their fancy trimmings, and the number of models reduced from around 40 to 10. Pencils will have smaller erasers and brass tips. Bottles of all kinds will be more standardized in shape. Men's clothing will appear in fewer patterns, and there will be fewer styles of upholstery for furniture and for what cars that are made.

Standardization is promised in a number of other lines, too. Pipe fittings and valves, for example, will be reduced in number. New items, in fact, are appearing on the "to be changed" list every day. Even fire engines are to lose some of their glitter. Manufacturers have been told to eliminate brass bells and handrails, aluminum trimming and extension ladders, and stainless steel tanks from future models.



ACME

FLYING FORTRESSES made in the United States and sent overseas to Britain are writing a new chapter in the history of aerial warfare. Above is the powerful B-17E, a new and deadlier version of the "battleship of the air."

## The American Observer

A Weekly Review of Social Thought and Action

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# The Week Abroad



The war front at the middle of September

## The War in Russia

After being stalled for more than a month on the western banks of the Dnieper River, German forces have opened up a new offensive in the southern sector of the Russian front. The aim of this new thrust is to encircle the Ukrainian capital, Kiev, and thus open a clear road for an advance to the city of Kharkov and the important industrial region of the Don River basin. If Hitler's divisions advance no faster than in recent weeks, they will still have a long trek ahead of them, and it is by no means certain that they will reach their objective before winter sets in.

The first snowstorm has already struck Leningrad, though the Germans say that it is proving no barrier to their siege of the city. Officials in Berlin assert that the ring of forts surrounding Leningrad has already been cracked and that it is now only a matter of time before the city is forced to capitulate. Moscow gives a different picture of the siege and pictures the city's residents as being prepared for a street-by-street struggle with the Nazis.

In the central front, the Russians, engaged in local counteroffensives, continue to make slow progress. Their advance has taken them to the outskirts of Smolensk, whose charred ruins fell to Hitler early in the war.

## Atlantic Struggle

Many military experts still believe the Battle of the Atlantic to be the most crucial struggle of this war. If that battle should be won by Hitler, Britain can be starved into surrender. If it is won by Britain, an absolute Hitler victory will be out of the question.

For the good part of a year the course of this struggle was causing grave concern in London and Washington. Last spring found Allied merchant ships going down at a rate in excess of 500,000 tons each month. The Allied merchant fleet had dropped from a peak of about 23,000,000 tons to something less than 16,000,000. American and British shipyards

combined could not hope to keep pace with these losses.

During the last summer, things took a turn for the better. American bases were being established in Greenland and Iceland, and American warships were on patrol in the western Atlantic. The British, also, were using more new naval craft. In July and August losses had dropped to about 130,000 tons a month.

Last week, after President Roosevelt threatened action against any Axis vessels found in waters essential to our defense, there were signs that the pace of the Atlantic battle was being stepped up again. A new kind of German "acoustic" mine, which is exploded by the sound of a ship's propellers passing near, was giving trouble to the British. From Germany came the claim that 31 out of 40 ships in a big British convoy had been sunk, a total of over a quarter million tons. Whether this report was true or false, out on the Atlantic the signs point to another grim winter.

## Trouble in Norway

Although it contains less than three million people, Norway is not an easy country for a foreign power to rule. Larger than Italy, it is shaped like a huge comet. A large head juts into the North Sea toward the southwest, while a long mountainous tail, cut through with glaciers, fjords, and deep valleys, straggles up the Scandinavian coast and reaches eastward along the Arctic toward the Soviet Union.

Since they conquered Norway in April 1940, the Germans have tried persistently to win over the Norwegian people. Like the Danes and Dutch, the Norwegians are considered blood brothers of the Germans, by Nazi racial theorists, so they have been spared some of the agonies inflicted upon Poles, Serbs, and Czechs. But it has been in Norway that Hitler has met the most bitter and persistent opposition to his rule.

Last week there was serious trouble in Norway. Aroused to anger by Norwegian workers who had gone on strikes or slowed down

production, the Nazis began making arrests right and left. There were several executions, but the troubles mounted. The lack of good communications systems in Norway has made it difficult for the Germans to be everywhere at once. In the meantime, airplanes from the R.A.F. have been visiting isolated sectors of the Norwegian coast regularly, and a new surge of hope has swept over the country.

## Argentina Reconsiders

Argentina, down at the other end of the hemisphere, is a proud country. Its 13,000,000 people, largely of European stock, consider themselves to be the most dynamic nationality of the whole continent to the south.

The Argentines are also somewhat touchy. They have resented the fact that the United States was the dominant power of the Americas. They have resented it all the more, in the past, because the United States failed to buy much Argentine beef, wool, and hides. As a result, Argentina has usually played a role independent of the United States in hemisphere matters.

Today Argentina is showing signs of a change of heart. For one thing, the whole country has been shaken by the government's discovery of a large and sinister Nazi organization in its midst, and of subversive activities involving the Nazi ambassador, Edmund von Thermann.

Another thing which has worried the Argentines has been the fact that Brazil and other countries which have been cooperating with the United States have not fared badly as a result of the war, while Argentina's trade has declined steadily. Fearing that Argentina may find herself isolated and alone if the policy of noncooperation with the United States is continued, the Argentines are now sending an important trade mission to this country—perhaps the first step in an era of better relations.

## Emperor in Command

Hirohito, the 124th in an unbroken line of Japanese sovereigns, has never seemed to relish the role that fate has forced upon him. Although he has applied himself studiously and intelligently to affairs of state, his natural



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EMPEROR HIROHITO of Japan has been largely a figurehead in the past. He is now apparently moving forward to assert his authority over the government.

leanings are in other directions. Today, at the age of 40, he is a student of marine biology, a poet, a good swimmer, and the devoted father of five children.

As Emperor of Japan, however, Hirohito is treated as a god. No one may look down upon him. No one is supposed to look upon him directly. The government of Japan is responsible to him, and the army and navy are directly under his command.

This being the case, some Americans were surprised last week to read newspaper stories to the effect that the Emperor had "taken command" of the Japanese army. What was meant was that the Emperor had taken active command, interceding in the interests of national policy.

Why did the Emperor do this? Though this is one of the mysteries of the hour, it is now widely believed that Japan and the United States are now trying by negotiation to settle their differences and bring peace to the Pacific. To prevent any serious incidents while negotiations are in progress, observers believe, the Japanese Emperor has placed a restraining hand on the ambitious young officers in the radical wing of the Japanese army.

## Road to Mandalay

Up until four years ago Burma was a province of India. Today it is one of the crown colonies of the British Empire. Larger than Texas, it spreads over a semi-jungle region which touches India, Tibet, Thailand, and Indo-China, reaching a long arm down the Malay Peninsula.

Although the British have been in Burma ever since the Pilgrims landed in Massachusetts, it has been only in recent years that Burma has assumed a position of importance in the Empire. Today it is the terminus of the famous Burma Road, over which goods brought by sea to Rangoon and Mandalay are shipped overland into central China. About 675 miles in length, built almost without machinery by 100,000 Chinese coolies, it has been the only safe route for goods destined for the armies of General Chiang Kai-shek, the leader of Free China. As it is under constant bombardment, however, traffic has often bogged down.

Recently three American traffic experts went to work on the problem and managed in a few weeks to iron out the snags and double the flow of traffic along this important highway. They showed how trucks may be loaded and unloaded quickly, where repair stations should be built and how to avoid stalls and slowdowns.



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NORWAY, conquered by Germany early in 1940, has been a leader in the civilian crusade of resistance to Nazi Germany in occupied Europe. Above is a line of citizens in Oslo, awaiting the food ration.



# America's Stake in the War . . .

(Continued from page 1)

go its own way, supplying him all the while with materials that he needed, in exchange for the produce of the countries under his control.

War, then, would not come at once and time would be on our side. For almost certainly troubles would develop in Hitler's far-flung empire. Revolutions would break out. If Hitler attempted to expand his conquests, the Japanese would be jealous and fearful, and if trouble broke out between the United States and Germany, they would be more likely to be on our side than against us.

Hitler is having difficulties even now because of the undercover resistance of the people of France and Norway. These difficulties will multiply as time goes on. Peoples who have been accustomed to freedom will not remain permanently under the yoke. Even the Germans will become restless after the war is over if Hitler maintains the nation in a state of war or constant preparation for war.

## Vital Questions

After having listened to this point, the neutral observer will fix his attention upon certain vital questions for which he will seek answers.

1. Can the conquered peoples of Europe be held in subjection by Hitler and can they be forced to obey him, to produce for him, and to serve his interests?

If they can, the interventionists are right in saying that Hitler's power will increase faster than America's power can. They will be right in saying that America will stand alone, against the world. If, on the other hand, the conquered peoples cannot be held down, Hitler, even though victorious, will be so weakened that he may be unable to carry on policies really dangerous to America.

German authorities say that in these days of the airplane, the tank, and other mechanized equipment, a relatively small force, holding factories and airfields, can keep millions in subjection. They think that risings such as occurred in Napoleon's time are no longer possible.

On the other hand, there are those who think that even though the conquered peoples may not be able to rise up in arms, they cannot be forced to operate factories efficiently and to produce goods for the conqueror.

But could the Nazis tell them to produce by forcing starvation upon them if they do not do so?

2. Will the Germans themselves support Hitler if he undertakes a conquest of the world?

Nearly all reports from Germany tell of a great war weariness. It is possible, however, that if Hitler conquers Europe, the conquered countries will be kept in a condition approaching slavery. The Germans may be made a master race in Europe and may profit greatly by it. The Germans, seeing themselves actually better off than they were, may like the new arrangement. This is the argument made by Joseph C. Harsch, in *Pattern of Conquest* (Garden City, New York: Doubleday, Doran. \$2.80).

A detailed description of how Hitler is already practically enslaving the conquered countries and making them mere "feeders" of Germany is found in Thomas Reville's *The Spoil of Europe* (New York: W. W. Norton, \$2.75).



HISTORY IS MADE by President Roosevelt as he declares that the U. S. Navy will follow a "shoot at sight" policy where Axis warships are concerned.

We now come to the economic argument. How would German victory affect the trade and consequently the prosperity or even the security of the United States?

Those who favor our taking an active part in the struggle against Germany frequently emphasize the economic argument. They undertake to show that if Hitler conquers the Eastern Hemisphere, he will make it so difficult for America to trade with the rest of the world that his policy will amount practically to a blockade of this country.

The most widely read discussion of this possibility is Douglas Miller's *You Can't Do Business with Hitler* (Boston: Little Brown. \$1.50). Here is the argument:

In Germany foreign trade is in the hands of the government. If any company outside Germany wishes to buy German products, it deals not with a private German company but with the government of that country. If one wants to sell any of his products to the Germans, he also must deal with the German government. The German government carries on trade with foreigners on a barter basis. It does not pay out money for the things it buys. It pays for them in German goods. When, for example, American tobacco growers wished to sell tobacco to Germany they were forced to take in return for it German-manufactured goods. If they could sell these goods it was all right; if not, they lost money on the deal.

## Trade War

That is the way Germany will continue to trade, and if she conquers Europe and controls the rest of the world, the people of the United States will have to deal with Hitler every time they wish to make a sale of any product in this country to any part of Europe or Africa. They will have to make a similar deal with the Japanese if they trade with Asia.

Hitler will buy our products only on his own terms. If he decides he wants to hurt and humiliate America, he will refuse to buy any goods from us. We cannot then sell to England or France or any other country because these countries will be under his control. If our wheat farmers have a surplus of wheat, they will have to go to Hitler to see whether he will buy it for any of the countries

of Europe. Perhaps, in order to bring economic disaster to our farmers, he will refuse to buy it. For while he would be better off with our products, he can get along without them. He will have the rest of the world to draw upon.

It is probable that he would impose humiliating terms upon us if we undertook to sell him goods. He might say, for example, that he would take some of America's surplus if our government would suppress the newspapers in this country which criticize Germany. This is not a wild improbability, for the Germans have done exactly that kind of thing with nations in Europe which depend upon them. They have said to Swiss and Swedish companies, for example, that they would buy the products of those companies if the owners would discharge employees known to be hostile to Germany.

If terms of this sort were demanded of Americans, they would no doubt be refused; for to accept them would be to lose our independence. But if we refuse to deal with Hitler on his own terms, he could keep us from selling goods not only to Germany but to the rest of the world, for he would control all except the Western Hemisphere. This would force upon us a depression far worse than that following 1929, for America cannot prosper without foreign trade. We would practically be blockaded.

Furthermore, Hitler would probably win South America through trade agreements. For example, he

would say to the people of Argentina, who have been shipping most of their products to England or Germany or to the European countries: "You can continue to do so. We will take all your crop of wheat and all the beef you wish to sell and your other products—everything you wish to export—and in return we will send you manufactured goods from Germany, England, and other nations under our control. We will do this, however, only on condition that you will not trade with the United States."

This deal would offer the Argentinians prosperity, but refusal of it would bring depression. The Argentinians would be forced to accept the deal. This would bring them within German influence; take them away from the United States. Very soon other arrangements would be made. German officers would be sent over to train the Argentine army. They would be supplied with air bases and Argentina would join the German system. The same thing would happen in other South American countries and the United States would be left alone against the whole world, reduced to poverty as well as danger by German influence.

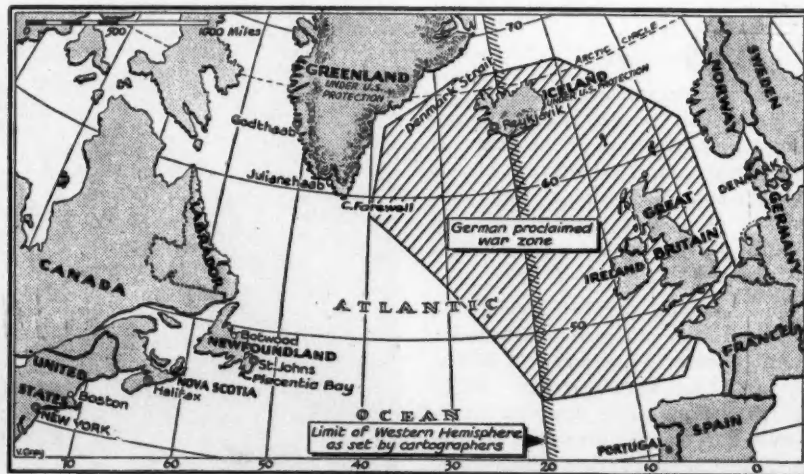
## American Strength

The position of the anti-interventionists:

John Chamberlain in *The American Stakes* challenges the argument that we could not do business with Hitler. His contention is similar to that outlined earlier in this article. He thinks that despite any conquests Hitler may make, he will be very badly in need of American products and that he would suffer as much as the United States by a breakdown of trade between this country and his empire. Mr. Chamberlain lists a number of vital products which the United States has to sell; products such as steel, copper, oil, cotton, wheat, and many other things which Europe needs very badly. If trade were broken off, we could get along better than Europe could. Hence, from the standpoint of self-interest, Hitler would trade with us on terms which would not be too unfavorable.

Charles A. Beard, in his very important book *The Open Door at Home* (New York: Macmillan. \$3.00), goes further and argues that the United States could get along without foreign trade if necessary. We could, if we had to, use all the goods which we produce. If we saw

(Concluded on page 7)



IN THE NORTH ATLANTIC German and American zones overlap. The Germans have declared an area reaching almost to the shores of Greenland to be a war zone. The United States has announced that the sea lanes to Iceland, U. S. naval outpost, shall be kept open.



# ... Conflicting Views Are Analyzed

(Concluded from page 6)

to it that all the American people were employed at good incomes, they could consume as much as our factories and farms are capable of producing. The shutting off of our foreign trade would then not be a disaster to us if we met the situation properly. We could not be throttled by Hitler or any other foreign ruler.

With respect to the South American situation, those who oppose our taking part in the war argue that German victory would not mean that Latin America would fall under German influence. They contend that the South American countries want to be independent; that they fear Germany, and that if Germany won in Europe, they would turn to the United States for leadership. The United States could beat Germany at her own game. The government would buy the surplus products of South America. It could even buy Argentine wheat and beef even though our people had no use for these products. Arrangements could be made, if necessary, for these things to be distributed among the poor of South America. This would be an expense to the United States, but it could be done to provide a way whereby the South Americans might not have to depend upon Germany to dispose of their products.

In reply to this argument it is said that the United States could not adopt a permanent policy of buying South American goods at a loss. Sooner or later our government would stop such a program. The South Americans would know it. They would know that they could not depend upon such a temporary and uneconomic arrangement. They would feel that their best chance of disposing of their goods would be to sell them to Europe on Hitler's terms.

## Questions to Consider

At this point in the argument these questions stand out:

1. If Germany wins in Europe, will she want to bring about peace and stability and prosperity in the world, or will she be seeking further power?

If she wants peace and prosperity, she will seek trade with the United States on decent terms. If she is out for world dominion, she will put pressure on us; make it difficult, if not impossible for us to trade with the outside world.

2. If a victorious Germany makes it practically impossible for us to sell our goods abroad, can we establish prosperity in this country without much foreign trade?

We might do so, but it would require a great deal of government planning and government control. We would have to cut down our production of certain things which we sell abroad; wheat and cotton for example. We would have to produce only the things which can be sold in this country. The government would have to take charge, curtailing the products of certain industries and helping the people to shift to other industries. This would mean a great change in the American way of doing business. It would mean less individual freedom; more control by the government. But it is a possibility.

We have been considering the question of what would be the effects of German victory. We have been trying to find out whether these effects upon the United States would

be so bad that we must try to prevent a German victory even at the cost of going to war. Now we come to the question of what going to war would mean to us.

Those who oppose our going into an "all-out" war with Germany point to the losses that would come from war. They say that it might cost a hundred billion dollars; that it would throw us so far into debt that the debt would be a terrible burden upon us; that it might result in a period of inflation; that after the war there would be a disastrous depression. Not only that, but there would be the inevitable loss of life. Furthermore,

They point to the results of World War I. We went to war then "to make the world safe for democracy." And what did we get? In a few years, the world was back again in a worse condition than before. Charles A. Beard points out in his *A Foreign Policy for America* and in his pamphlet *Giddy Minds and Foreign Quarrels* that Europeans have been fighting for centuries. They will continue to fight. The United States cannot prevent it. We cannot impose peaceful conditions upon Europe. Our best chance of security is to develop a policy of establishing peace, order, and prosperity in the

problems in Europe and all over the world; there will still be occasional wars, no doubt. But it is unlikely that again for years and possibly for centuries there will be another great struggle for world conquest which will deprive all nations of peace and security. Only a few times in the history of the world have such attempts been made. Alexander, Caesar, Napoleon, Hitler are among the few who have started movements which have shaken the nations of the entire world. If Hitler is defeated decisively, another such attempt may not be made for centuries.

Many problems—very grave problems—will remain in the United States and in the rest of the world. But we will at least have a chance to solve them in peace. There will be no such chance if Hitler wins.

Finally, opponents of our going further into the war say that the costs and the dangers of our involvement in war are immediate and certain, while the dangers which might come to us if we stay out of the war are still in the future and are not altogether certain.

## A Civic Duty

(Editor's Note—This article is not intended as a complete explanation of the case for and against America's taking more decisive steps to defeat Germany. It is merely an outline, showing the points at issue and indicating the questions which should be further studied.)

The problems involved are not easy to understand. Study of the issue cannot be "light reading." It will be hard to go thoroughly into the question. But patriotic citizens must be willing to work hard for their country, and in a democratic nation, one of the most essential duties is the careful, painstaking consideration of difficult questions of policy. This duty is, of course, the more imperative in a period of grave national crisis.)

## Something to Think About

### American Foreign Policy

1. What are some of the more extreme views relative to America's foreign policy in the present crisis?
2. Disregarding these extreme views, what is the central issue involved in the controversy over America's role in the war?
3. What effect do the interventionists think a Hitler victory would have upon South America?
4. How do the isolationists reply to this contention?
5. Under what conditions, according to the isolationists, might the United States be able to trade with a victorious Germany?
6. Give the interventionist viewpoint on this question.
7. All things considered, what policy do you think the United States should adopt in the present crisis?

### Miscellaneous

1. What charges have been made against the motion-picture industry by certain members of Congress?
2. What position in the defense program is held by Donald Nelson?
3. How has Emperor Hirohito acted recently in connection with the Japanese-American crisis?
4. True or false: Colombia is about the size of the state of Texas.
5. What indications are there that Argentina may be changing its attitude toward the United States?



Coming to a showdown

SEIBEL IN RICHMOND TIMES-DISPATCH

it would be dangerous to democracy and freedom, the very things we are supposed to be defending. For a great deal of freedom must always be surrendered during a time of war.

Those who favor risking a war with Germany say that the expense of preparing for war cannot in any case be avoided; that even those who oppose going to war say that they favor the defense program, and it is the defense program which costs billions. It would unquestionably have to be continued if Germany won the war. We could not for a moment stop war preparation then. We would have to spend money to prepare for war as feverishly as Germany has been spending it since Hitler came to power—either that or become so weak that we could be conquered by the Germans.

### Peace Prospects

But what if we go to war and win? Suppose Germany is defeated. What will we have gained?

Opponents of going to war with Germany say we would gain little.

Americas. Europe must handle its own problems. We must stay out. No permanent good comes from our mixing in the perennial wars of Europe.

Those who favor decisive action by the United States to defeat Germany argue that a decisive defeat of the Nazis would at least have the negative effect of freeing us from a terrible, immediate threat to American security and independence. Peace can be made along the lines set forth by Churchill and Roosevelt in their Atlantic Conference. If we win over Germany, we will not immediately solve all the problems of Europe. We can, however, disarm the Germans, and Germany is the one power which at this time is undertaking world conquest and making every country unsafe. At the same time we can see to it that Germans are treated fairly; that they are allowed a fair share of the trade of the world; that they are placed in a position where each individual may hopefully seek prosperity.

If this is done, there will still be



**F**OUR nights a week—on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday—listeners who tune in on the nine o'clock (E.S.T.) program of the Mutual Broadcasting System hear the calm, measured voice of Raymond Gram Swing. Few commentators have so completely won the confidence of their hearers. There is nothing sensational or excitable about Swing. He prefers analysis to drama, never permits his judgment to be warped by bold headlines. He can take a score of apparently isolated news developments and fit them into a clear, orderly pattern that enables his audience to get a properly focused picture of the world scene.

Swing has been on the air since 1935. Before that he had wide experience in newspaper work, both here and abroad. During the World War, he established himself as a reporter by scooping his colleagues in Europe on several major news stories.

For all of his many years' experience in newspaper work and general writing, Swing does not dash off his radio scripts at high speed. On the contrary, he devotes 10 hours a day to his 15-minute broadcast. Engineers in the Mutual studios in New York, where his program generally originates, have unbounded admiration for Swing's timing of his scripts to the second. It is said that never once has he gone overtime and only twice during all these years have his newscasts been short.

Now in his 54th year, Swing still looks rather youthful. Music is one of his hobbies and he has, in fact, written several musical compositions. But he refuses to have them published.

### War of Words

For several years a running battle of words has been fought between



the two most powerful radio transmitters in Europe—Britain's BBC, and Germany's Radio Berlin. Night after night Radio Berlin has appealed to the British people in English while the British Broadcasting Company has addressed itself to 85,000,000 Germans. Neutral observers admit that a great many people in both countries listen carefully to what is broadcast from the enemy capitals.

From the beginning, Radio Berlin has suffered one disadvantage in this war. Due to the superiority of British electrical instruments it must go off the air when British planes approach. BBC, on the other hand, continues its broadcasts during air attacks.

Recently the Russians have joined

## On the Air

in the battle of words, and they have swiftly taken advantage of this situation. Broadcasting on the same wave length as Radio Berlin, a German-speaking announcer in Moscow has been steadily heckling German news commentators in Berlin, generally disparaging all reports of German victories.

When the approach of British planes forces Radio Berlin off the air, the Russians now have the German air waves to themselves. Last week the Russians made use of this lull to regale the German people with a voice which sounded curiously like Hitler's. Calling for ever heavier sacrifices and calling himself the greatest German that Germany ever had, the false Hitler ended with the words—"The enemies of the German people speak of peace. There will be no peace. So long as I am leader of Germany I will lead you from victory to victory until the final catastrophe."

### Cavalcade of America

Every Monday evening history books spring open and the characters who seemed lifeless emerge in the dress of their period to play again their little parts in the never-ending drama of human life. As we observe these oddly dressed people we find them much like ourselves, with problems to solve, successes to gain, and small triumphs to enjoy. For a brief half hour they hold the great, invisible radio stage, and then sink back into print. But never after are they quite the same to us as they were before.

Well-known stage, screen, and radio actors play in most of the "Cavalcade" programs, whose historical accuracy is a standard for all similar presentations. Many of the programs come from the pens of famous playwrights. For example, some of the scripts of the 1940-41 series were written by Marc Connelly, William Saroyan, Paul Green, and Maxwell Anderson—names familiar to every student of contemporary literature. Well-chosen background music and sound effects help to create vivid dramatic scenes and add greatly to the programs' entertainment value.

By listening to the "Cavalcade," one gains a fuller knowledge of America's past and a keener appreciation of the people who by their inventions, writings, and achievements in many fields made the United States the great republic we live in today.

The "Cavalcade of America" comes on the air every Monday at 6:30, Eastern Standard Time, over the National Broadcasting Company's Red Network. The program lasts for half an hour. On the Pacific coast it is repeated at 9:30 p.m. For a pleasant, informative, thrilling half hour, this is one of the highly recommended programs of the radio week.

### Straight Thinking Again

Last week we quoted a note from a current newspaper, said it contained an error in logic and suggested that our readers figure out what was wrong. We said we would give our interpretation of it this week. The clipping, together with our comment follows:

In women's stockings cotton by the latest figures was less than 10 per cent. American women wore nine pairs of silk or silk mixture for every

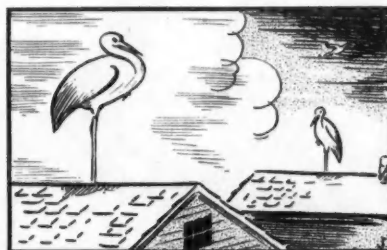
pair of cotton hose. . . . How does the picture of nine-tenths of a nation in silk stockings square with the familiar picture of one-third of a nation ill-clad? If one-third of all American women are ill-clad, it should mean 22,000,000 ill-clad women. If only one American woman in 10 wears cotton stockings, it means only six or seven million women in cotton hosiery. It follows that 15,000,000 American women who wear silk stockings nevertheless belong to the underprivileged ill-clad one-third of the nation.

Even though nine-tenths of all stockings which are sold are silk, it does not follow that nine-tenths of all purchasers of stockings buy silk ones; it does not follow that "only one American woman in 10 wears cotton stockings."

Wealthy women buy more pairs of hose than the poor do. It is doubtful whether the poorest third of all women in the country buy as much as a tenth of all the stockings. There might, therefore, be very few silk stockings among the poorest third of the people and yet nine-tenths of all stockings sold might still be silk.

### The Storks Know

Martin Agronsky, the National Broadcasting Company's reporter in



Ankara, Turkey, is heard nearly every day on the "World News" roundup of foreign capitals. He recently reported a sign of early winter which, in Turkey, is considered unfailing. The storks are on their way to their winter quarters in Africa earlier than usual. Everywhere, he said, these birds are to be seen standing on housetops in characteristic pose on one leg, as they rest before continuing the southward journey. Usually their visits to Ankara are considerably later in the fall.

Ordinarily a report of this kind would have no importance, but it is significant now because of the effect an early winter may have on the conduct of the war. If it is early in Turkey it will be in Russia, and while cold, snowy weather will not stop the fighting it will hinder operations. It will add to the hardships of the Germans and will make further invasion more difficult.

### Elmer Davis

Elmer Davis—scholarly, well traveled, kindly, and witty—is one of America's best-known and best-liked news analysts. Few men possess a better background for their work. A one-time school teacher and later a Rhodes Scholar at Oxford, he has traveled widely in Europe and has been all through the newspaper game, from printer's devil to editorial writer.

Davis was well known as an author of novels and essays and as a political writer before he assumed the duties of a radio commentator when the war broke out. He can with equal facility dash off a wise and salty essay or give a calm but penetrating



"Elmer Davis and the News"

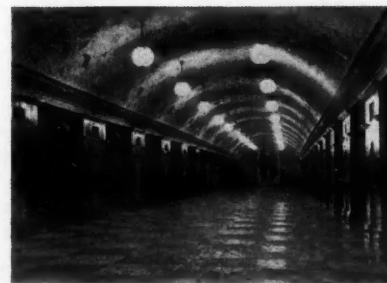
appraisal of the events of the day. His versatility is further attested by his ability to read Latin poetry in the original with ease (and appreciation), or to write authoritatively concerning the fall and decline of the Roman Empire.

Davis is a quiet but energetic man who possesses a tremendous love for cats, music, and history. In a time of discouraging strife and destruction, he reveals a sane optimism which is at once refreshing and encouraging. He sizes up the day's news every evening between 7:55 and 8 o'clock, Eastern Standard Time, over the Columbia Network.

### ARP in Moscow

Shortly after Hitler invaded the Soviet Union, the British decided to send an expert mission to Moscow to aid the Russian capital in organizing air-raid precautions. Through more than a year's experience, the British have learned the type of shelters that can best withstand bomb explosions. They have built up an efficient fire-fighting service. They have become adept at dealing with incendiary bombs. And they sought to give the benefit of their experience to their Russian allies.

But according to a Columbia Broadcasting System correspondent, speaking from London in a recent news program, the British experts, after spending some time in Moscow, found that they had little to teach the Russians. A plan for coping with air attacks upon the capital had been prepared by Russian officials months before the invasion; and the machinery was put in operation as soon as the first Nazi troops crossed the Soviet frontiers. One thing which



MOSCOW SUBWAY station yesterday; air-raid shelter today.

impressed the British mission was the speed with which the Moscow subway was converted into a shelter and the businesslike fashion in which every Muscovite took up the duties assigned him by air-raid wardens.

### Pronunciations

Barranquilla—bah-rah-n-keel'yah.  
Bogota—boe-goe-tah'.  
Cali—kah'lee.  
Cartagena—kahr-tah-hay'nah.  
Chiang Kai-shek—jee'ong' ki' shek'—  
i as in ice.  
Dnieper—nee'per.  
Hirohito—hee-roe-hee'toe.  
Kharkov—kahr'koff.  
Kiev—kee'yef.  
Thailand—ti'lahnd—i as in ice.